

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF BOSTON-WORCESTER-LAWRENCE, MA-NH-ME-CT NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY OCTOBER 2001

Workers in the Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut 1/ metropolitan area averaged \$20.61 per hour during October 2001, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney reported that white-collar workers averaged \$24.83 per hour and accounted for 57 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$16.64 per hour and represented 22 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 21 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$12.75 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 374 firms representing 1,234,700 workers in the Boston metropolitan area, which includes 282 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Eighty percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Boston metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 100 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$36.18 per hour; civil engineers, \$34.21; and registered nurses, \$27.23. Blue-collar occupations include construction laborers at \$20.83 per hour, truck drivers, \$18.17 and assemblers, \$11.80. In the service occupations, janitors and cleaners averaged \$12.85 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$11.93; and cooks, \$11.87.

1/ For convenience in the release, this area title will be referred to in text as the Boston metropolitan area.

This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 1-617-565-2072, TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) Message Referral Phone: 1-800-877-8339.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Boston area averaged \$21.80 per hour and part-timers earned \$12.80. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$20.15 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.34. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.61 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$23.55

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT National Compensation Survey October 2001 (Bulletin 3110-77). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Boston Information Office by calling 617-565-2327. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Boston by dialing 617-565-9167 and requesting document 9810.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Boston Information Office at 617-565-2327 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT, October 2001

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$20.61	2.1	\$19.65	2.4	\$24.71	3.2
All excluding sales	20.79	2.1	19.79	2.5	24.77	3.2
White collar	24.83	2.3	23.94	2.7	28.25	3.7
White collar excluding sales	25.71	2.2	24.90	2.6	28.42	3.7
Professional specialty and technical	29.47	2.5	27.95	3.1	34.18	3.3
Professional specialty	32.24	2.4	31.16	3.0	34.75	3.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	34.02	3.2	34.29	4.0	—	—
Civil engineers	34.21	3.4	—	—	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	37.87	4.3	37.87	4.3	—	—
Industrial engineers	28.30	7.7	28.30	7.7	—	—
Mechanical engineers	29.38	6.5	29.38	6.5	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	32.41	5.1	32.88	8.6	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	35.09	5.8	36.39	5.3	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	36.18	5.9	37.35	5.3	—	—
Natural scientists	29.54	15.7	29.55	15.8	—	—
Medical scientists	28.52	25.6	28.52	25.6	—	—
Health related	28.29	3.5	28.77	3.4	23.59	16.1
Physicians	40.61	29.7	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	27.23	2.2	27.27	2.3	26.73	5.7
Pharmacists	33.41	3.1	33.41	3.1	—	—
Physical therapists	29.01	10.5	29.01	10.5	—	—
Teachers, college and university	48.00	6.7	52.48	4.9	—	—
Other post-secondary teachers	33.01	7.9	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	37.62	3.0	21.80	11.1	40.07	2.1
Elementary school teachers	38.60	2.2	—	—	38.97	2.2
Secondary school teachers	41.09	2.7	27.84	5.8	42.42	2.6
Teachers, n.e.c.	36.97	11.3	18.46	29.5	39.44	7.5
Librarians, archivists, and curators	29.37	7.7	—	—	32.00	14.6
Librarians	29.55	8.4	—	—	32.00	14.6
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	18.27	10.1	14.67	11.6	22.93	8.1
Social workers	18.55	11.1	14.35	12.5	23.19	8.3
Lawyers and judges	38.81	15.6	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	25.14	11.6	25.58	12.0	—	—
Editors and reporters	24.05	25.2	24.05	25.2	—	—
Technical	19.86	4.6	19.76	4.8	21.76	12.7
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	17.48	8.3	17.44	8.4	—	—
Radiological technicians	23.58	5.2	23.58	5.2	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	18.44	2.3	18.66	2.3	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	15.75	6.3	15.72	6.5	—	—
Electrical and electronic technicians	22.69	4.9	22.69	4.9	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	25.19	3.8	25.19	3.8	—	—
Drafters	21.92	8.5	21.92	8.5	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	34.08	3.8	33.75	4.1	35.35	8.7
Executives, administrators, and managers	38.12	4.4	37.26	5.3	41.19	5.6
Administrators and officials, public administration	32.17	8.0	—	—	32.17	8.0
Financial managers	32.38	6.3	32.17	6.5	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	45.04	5.0	45.04	5.0	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	43.30	5.2	42.24	21.5	43.41	5.2
Managers, medicine and health	31.39	9.1	31.45	9.2	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	41.55	7.6	40.94	8.0	—	—
Management related	27.05	8.1	27.98	8.9	22.77	5.5
Accountants and auditors	22.50	5.7	23.06	7.1	—	—
Other financial officers	34.46	23.1	—	—	—	—
Management analysts	28.61	14.5	—	—	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	31.45	4.9	32.19	4.0	—	—
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	22.77	6.9	22.77	6.9	—	—
Construction inspectors	25.34	2.7	—	—	25.34	2.7
Management related, n.e.c.	27.44	7.1	28.63	9.0	24.87	5.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT, October 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Sales	\$17.98	9.5	\$17.95	9.9	\$18.93	5.6
Supervisors, sales	17.99	7.9	17.72	8.3	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	36.45	18.6	36.45	18.6	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	14.88	19.4	14.88	19.4	—	—
Cashiers	9.24	3.6	8.42	3.0	18.65	6.3
Administrative support, including clerical	15.44	2.3	15.37	2.9	15.68	2.4
Supervisors, general office	19.03	6.3	19.04	6.6	—	—
Secretaries	17.05	2.8	16.41	3.0	19.23	4.3
Typists	14.50	5.2	—	—	—	—
Receptionists	12.10	4.5	12.19	4.8	—	—
Order clerks	14.57	7.1	14.57	7.1	—	—
Library clerks	16.03	5.0	—	—	15.99	6.2
Records clerks, n.e.c.	13.12	10.2	13.09	10.5	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	14.86	3.6	14.35	3.9	—	—
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	16.22	10.2	—	—	—	—
Billing clerks	12.12	6.4	12.12	6.4	—	—
Telephone operators	9.43	4.5	9.40	5.1	—	—
Mail clerks, except postal service	10.35	5.6	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	14.63	4.9	14.63	4.9	—	—
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and investigators	18.10	3.6	18.10	3.6	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	17.11	15.7	17.11	15.7	—	—
General office clerks	15.64	3.9	15.46	6.6	15.85	3.7
Teachers' aides	13.46	6.3	—	—	13.47	6.3
Administrative support, n.e.c.	17.47	8.9	17.56	9.2	—	—
Blue collar	16.64	4.2	16.35	4.6	19.97	3.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	21.29	5.6	21.15	6.3	22.59	4.5
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	23.18	9.7	22.95	11.0	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	15.88	5.2	15.88	5.2	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	17.44	7.4	16.17	6.8	—	—
Carpenters	21.59	5.8	—	—	—	—
Electricians	—	—	—	—	26.97	7.8
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	20.62	10.8	—	—	—	—
Construction trades, n.e.c.	15.07	7.6	—	—	14.90	8.9
Supervisors, production	20.62	6.4	20.62	6.4	—	—
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers ..	15.90	4.1	15.90	4.1	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.63	3.5	13.45	3.6	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	14.04	5.3	14.04	5.3	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.30	5.1	12.89	4.2	—	—
Welders and cutters	17.94	4.0	—	—	—	—
Assemblers	11.80	10.9	11.80	10.9	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	13.51	7.8	13.51	7.8	—	—
Transportation and material moving	17.56	5.5	17.24	6.5	19.48	4.9
Truck drivers	18.17	7.2	18.23	7.3	—	—
Bus drivers	15.33	8.7	—	—	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.81	6.7	12.54	7.4	15.85	6.9
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	13.09	8.1	12.20	11.6	—	—
Construction laborers	20.83	11.6	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	9.88	3.8	9.88	3.8	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	15.10	7.9	15.10	8.0	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	9.40	8.0	9.40	8.0	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	13.97	20.4	12.53	29.1	17.49	10.3
Service	12.75	3.3	10.58	4.5	18.35	2.8
Protective service	17.80	7.5	10.85	12.2	20.59	2.7
Supervisors, firefighters and fire prevention	23.55	1.1	—	—	23.55	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT, October 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Protective service —Continued						
Supervisors, police and detectives	\$31.24	10.1	—	—	\$31.24	10.1
Firefighting	19.77	2.4	—	—	19.77	2.4
Police and detectives, public service	20.32	2.9	—	—	20.32	2.9
Guards and police, except public service	10.84	12.2	\$10.70	12.1	—	—
Food service	8.15	6.8	8.02	7.1	11.75	5.1
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.06	12.0	4.06	12.0	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.64	13.1	3.64	13.1	—	—
Waiters'/Waitresses' assistants	6.29	12.1	6.29	12.1	—	—
Other food service	10.76	6.0	10.70	6.4	11.75	5.1
Supervisors, food preparation and service	15.89	16.5	15.89	16.5	—	—
Cooks	11.87	5.7	11.77	6.3	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	9.66	12.4	9.66	12.4	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	8.23	2.9	8.18	3.0	—	—
Health service	11.90	3.0	11.73	3.9	12.76	1.9
Health aides, except nursing	10.60	2.4	10.57	2.5	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	11.93	3.3	11.74	4.3	12.80	1.9
Cleaning and building service	12.79	8.5	11.96	11.3	15.84	8.4
Maids and housemen	9.33	1.6	9.33	1.6	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	12.85	9.3	12.40	12.4	14.49	4.0
Personal service	13.17	15.6	13.06	17.3	14.12	16.5
Welfare service aides	11.87	10.2	11.87	10.2	—	—
Child care workers, n.e.c.	10.84	3.5	10.84	3.9	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	9.26	4.7	9.07	5.1	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT, October 2001

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$21.80	\$12.80	\$22.09	\$19.98	\$20.59	\$21.06
All excluding sales	21.75	13.63	22.72	19.96	20.83	17.21
White collar	25.82	17.06	25.44	24.64	24.86	23.87
White-collar excluding sales	26.11	21.37	27.27	25.21	25.71	—
Professional specialty and technical	29.75	26.92	33.70	27.75	29.47	—
Professional specialty	32.57	29.23	34.82	30.97	32.24	—
Technical	19.90	19.45	25.13	18.93	19.86	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	34.32	25.78	30.66	34.32	34.08	—
Sales	22.67	8.57	10.64	20.24	15.95	23.87
Administrative support, including clerical	15.84	11.44	17.03	14.83	15.44	—
Blue collar	17.01	9.39	20.15	14.34	16.59	17.75
Precision production, craft, and repair	21.30	—	23.61	18.19	21.29	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.74	—	15.77	13.09	13.71	—
Transportation and material moving	18.16	—	19.43	15.51	16.74	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	13.58	8.67	14.64	11.95	12.68	—
Service	14.55	8.71	17.49	10.47	12.76	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.1	4.4	2.9	2.7	2.1	9.8
All excluding sales	2.2	5.0	2.7	2.7	2.1	12.9
White collar	2.3	4.8	3.9	2.7	2.3	10.2
White-collar excluding sales	2.3	4.6	3.2	2.7	2.2	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.7	4.2	3.2	3.2	2.5	—
Professional specialty	2.5	4.7	2.9	3.2	2.4	—
Technical	5.1	6.1	14.4	3.9	4.6	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.9	9.4	13.5	3.9	3.8	—
Sales	9.6	2.4	5.6	10.2	12.0	10.2
Administrative support, including clerical	2.3	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.3	—
Blue collar	4.2	5.5	6.0	3.4	4.3	13.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.6	—	6.8	3.3	5.6	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	3.5	—	6.6	4.2	3.6	—
Transportation and material moving	5.2	—	7.0	7.5	5.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.6	4.5	10.8	8.7	6.9	—
Service	3.1	8.7	3.9	4.7	3.3	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT, October 2001

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$19.65	\$15.61	\$20.70	\$18.34	\$23.55
All excluding sales	19.79	15.07	20.99	18.77	23.42
White collar	23.94	21.56	24.35	21.14	27.22
White-collar excluding sales	24.90	21.77	25.38	22.91	27.13
Professional specialty and technical	27.95	28.10	27.94	25.24	29.22
Professional specialty	31.16	29.65	31.26	28.74	32.34
Technical	19.76	—	19.70	18.29	20.55
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.75	28.93	34.97	33.74	36.05
Sales	17.95	20.89	16.98	15.16	—
Administrative support, including clerical	15.37	14.94	15.48	15.13	15.90
Blue collar	16.35	13.74	17.16	17.08	17.35
Precision production, craft, and repair	21.15	16.60	21.82	21.85	21.71
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.45	13.09	13.58	13.64	13.44
Transportation and material moving	17.24	14.34	18.61	18.16	19.64
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12.54	12.34	12.63	11.76	14.63
Service	10.58	9.38	11.25	10.54	12.06
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.4	5.6	2.7	4.4	3.4
All excluding sales	2.5	5.9	2.7	4.4	3.4
White collar	2.7	6.1	3.0	5.3	3.0
White-collar excluding sales	2.6	6.6	2.8	4.9	3.1
Professional specialty and technical	3.1	10.7	3.2	6.7	3.4
Professional specialty	3.0	11.9	3.1	6.8	3.4
Technical	4.8	—	4.9	7.5	5.5
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.1	8.9	4.4	6.3	6.3
Sales	9.9	18.9	11.4	12.9	—
Administrative support, including clerical	2.9	8.3	3.0	4.9	3.0
Blue collar	4.6	7.5	5.2	7.0	5.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.3	6.4	6.5	8.6	4.3
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	3.6	10.1	3.4	3.9	6.5
Transportation and material moving	6.5	7.0	7.0	10.0	6.1
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.4	17.8	7.6	9.8	14.0
Service	4.5	10.5	4.7	7.2	6.9

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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